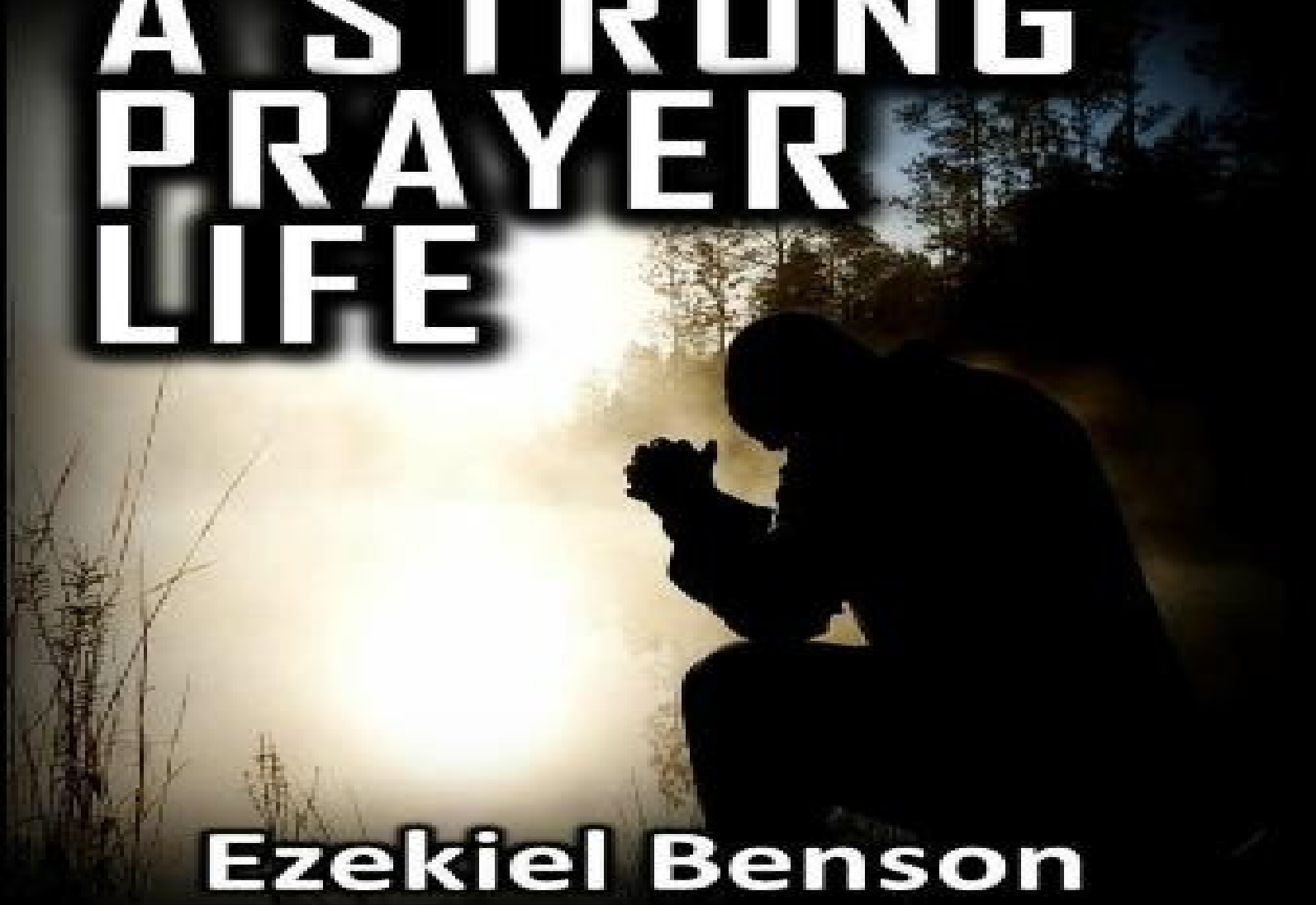
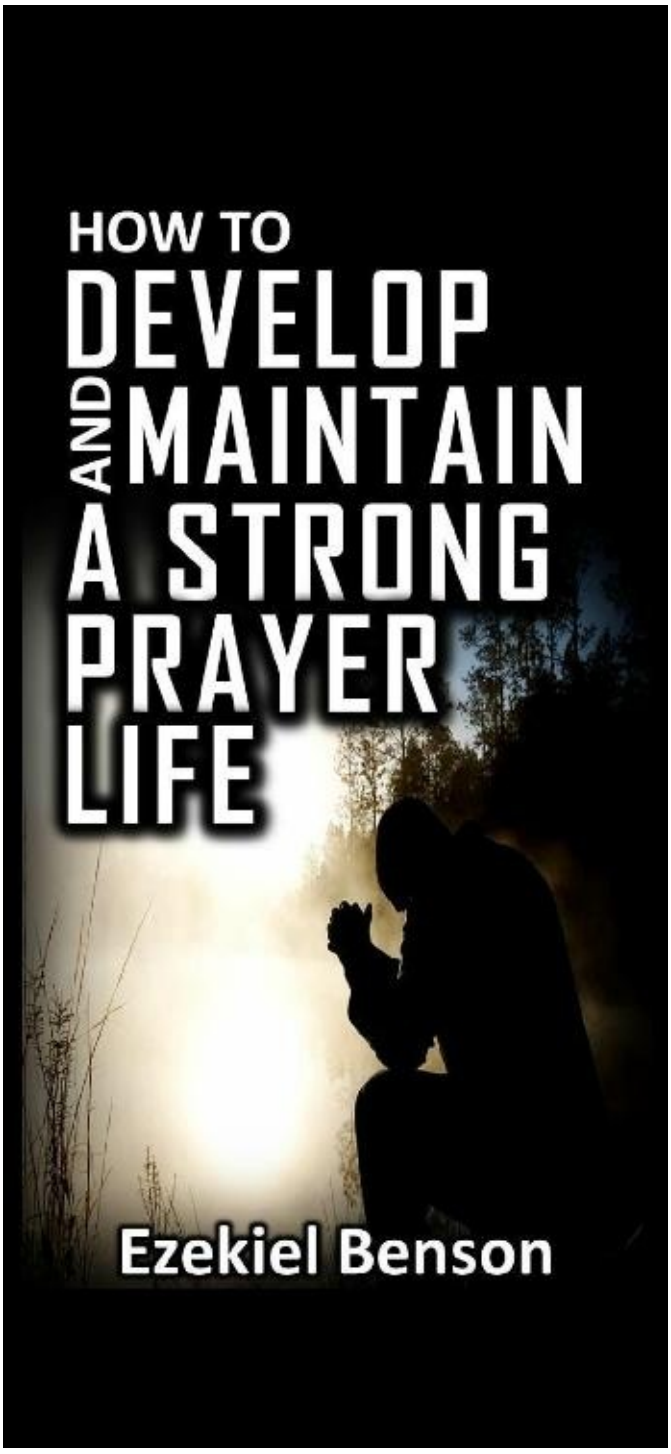
HOW TO DEVELOP AND MAINTAIN A STRONG PRAYER LIFE



Ezekiel Benson


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BY
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DEDICATION

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THE POWER OF PRAYER IN THE LIFE OF A BELIEVER

God has made prayer the foundation of the existence of Christianity. Through prayer, we communicate with God, effect changes on earth and have our needs met.

Many around the world have heard the word "PRAY" or "PRAYER". They know it is important, but don't really understand its power.

Prayer is the highest and holiest work to which God has graciously called us to perform. God intended prayer to be as simple and natural, and as constant a part of our spiritual life. It is a mingling and union of spirits; between the Spirit of God and the spirit of man. It is fellowship between the Unseen and Most Holy One and man.

God in His graciousness and love made prayer to be the very essence of true Christianity, the channel of all blessings; the channel through which all blessings flows from God to man.

Prayer is the secret of all power and the victorious life, and the medium through which we subdue nations, wrought miracles, get promises fulfilled and establish dominion over circumstances and life itself.

Prayer also helps to build us up spiritually and at the same time, it builds up our relationship with God. We are meant to have an effective-result oriented prayer life.

God so much fashioned and designed prayer to have the powers of the eternal world placed at its disposal. Access to this power is only possible through prayer, and with this power you can change anything; you can rule your world and nothing shall be impossible unto you. This is why prayer is so important; not only for ourselves, but for others, for the Church and for the world.

Everyone desires to take a hold of God and His power; to bring God down into their life, circumstances and situations. Everyone desires to have God intervene in their problems and troubles. This is only possible through prayer, for it is to prayer that God has given the right to take hold of Him and His power to effect changes in our lives and circumstances.

Many can attest to the fact that they pray, however no so many can testify that they have developed a strong and consistent prayer life.

For many, prayer is **"ON"** and **"OFF"**. They may pray today and not be able to find time

to pray the next day, or even several weeks running into months.

For others, they desire to pray, but have had problems in developing and maintaining a strong and a vibrant prayer life.

God does not desire that we have a pulsating prayer life. He desires that we develop, maintain and sustain a consistence and very vibrant prayer life, thereby creating a very strong relationship with Him.

A strong prayer life that is powerful and effective requires consistency; it ought to be developed and sustained. It is such prayer life that takes hold of God's power and grace; it avails much and always has the gates of heaven readily and really opened wide to it.

This book was written in simple terms to teach you how to develop and maintain a strong and a result oriented prayer life.

You will learn the principles that governs the development and maintenance of a strong result-oriented prayer life.

THE PRINCIPLE OF A CERTAIN PLACE

The first principle that governs the development and maintenance of a strong result-oriented prayer life is the **PRINCIPLE OF A CERTAIN PLACE**

The principle of a Certain Place is very important if one is to build and maintain a strong prayer life.

A certain place is an agreed place to meet with God everyday in prayer. This is a place where you turn to everyday, usually in the morning to pray.

God usually desires to meet with us specially and personally in a special place.

There is a particular place in the Tabernacle of Old where God designated to meet with Moses and commune with him. This was a ***CERTAIN PLACE*** of fellowship between God and Moses.

God told Moses:

> **"AND THERE I WILL MEET WITH THEE, AND I WILL COMMUNE WITH THEE FROM ABOVE THE MERCY SEAT, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in command-**

ment unto the children of Israel." – Exodus 25:22

We see from the scripture above, that a certain place is not ***"everyplace"***; it is not ***"all places"***. It is a specially designated place where God meets with you to commune with you.

Jesus also practiced the ***CERTAIN PLACE*** principle.

About Jesus' practice of a certain place principle in prayer, the bible says:

> ***"AND IT CAME TO PASS, THAT, AS HE WAS PRAYING IN A CERTAIN PLACE,*** **when he ceased, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. " – Luke 11:1**

A certain place can be a designated prayer room in your home; a corner in your bedroom; a corner in your living room; a small cubicle in your garage, etc.

It is place you consecrate and agree to meet with God everyday to pray and commune with Him.

A certain place is a personal place for personal and private prayers.

If you have not prayed in a day, having a certain place of prayer serves as a reminder to you that you have not prayed. There is an unseen force that gently nudges and pulls you in for fellowship.

When you have a certain place for prayer, it helps to instill discipline into you for regular daily prayer. It helps you to develop, build and maintain consistency in your prayer life.

I have a certain place of prayer in my home. It is where I meet with God for fellowship everyday. Having it has helped me tremendously to develop consistency in my prayer life. When I am there fellowship with God becomes sweet, powerful and tangible.

As a believer who wants to develop and maintain a strong prayer life, you have to designate or assign a place in your home as your certain place of prayer. It should not be a play-ground for kids or a place to dump the household laundry. It should be sacred to you. It should always be kept tidy and clean because that is where the Holy LORD meets with you.

If you have a study at home, your certain place could be a corner in your study. That's where you retire to for special and daily communion with God in prayer.

THE PRINCIPLE OF A CERTAIN TIME

After agreeing on a certain place to meet with God to pray, the next principle to put in place towards building a daily result-oriented, strong and very vibrant prayer life is the **PRINCIPLE OF A CERTAIN TIME.**

The principle of a certain time requires that you agree with God on a meeting time of fellowship everyday. This time is your first prayer session with God that day and it is usually after you have risen or woken up from sleep in the morning of each day.

This time is special. It is different from other times and it is usually in the early hours of the morning or before day break.

The bible says:

> **"Pray without ceasing" – 1 Thessalonians 5:17**

In other words, you can enter your certain place of prayer anytime of the day and as much as you want to or have need of to pray; but the certain time is a special designated time in the day for prayers. It is the most important time of all your prayer times and it is usually your first prayer session in the day.

Jesus practiced the ***Certain Time Principle*** in prayer.

The bible says:

> **"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed." – Mark 1:35**

From the scripture above, Jesus would rise up a great while before day (in the early hours of the morning) to pray. This principle is a very important factor towards developing and maintaining a very strong prayer life.

We also see from the scripture above that the certain time is a designated time, usually before others around you have risen or woken up from sleep.

For me, my certain time is usually 3.50am in the morning. I chose this time, because my wife and kids usually wake up around 6.00am in the morning. So that gives me a very good two hours prayer session and fellowship with God. Before members of my household rise up, I have finished praying; I would have addressed what needs to be addressed about them in prayer and taken complete dominion over the day.

I have been asked by do I wake up ten minutes to four (3.50am) in the morning. The reason is because when I wake up I need to visit the convenience and afterwards, I need to settle in to the mood of prayer. I need

about ten minutes to get myself settled down for prayers. I start praying as soon as it is 4.00am on the dot and finish around 6.00am.

I know people whose certain time of prayer is 5.00am, 5.30am, 6.00am, 7.00a.m

It all depends on what you are able to agree with God on and you have to make every effort necessary to stick to the certain time.

At the initial stage, you may not be able to wake up exactly at the agreed time. I had the same problem when I started. What I did was to pray first and seek help of the Holy Spirit. I told Him, 4.00am was my certain time, but I would want to be woken up by 3.50am. I asked Him to help me wake up by 3.50am.

I also took another step; I had to set my clock alarm to exactly 3.50am.

I noticed that I would have been up exactly the time my alarm was going off. This was the Holy Spirit doing His own part.

I later on realized that I didn't need the clock alarm any longer. Once it's; 3.50am, I would find myself waking up from sleep, feeling strong and ready to go to my certain place for fellowship with God.

This daily routine of applying the ***certain place*** and the ***certain time*** principles helped me immensely to forge, develop and maintain a very strong, powerful and vibrant prayer life.

I also realized that God was more desirous to fellowship with us than we are to fellowship with Him.

Why do I say so?

In my experience, I realized that the Holy Spirit was always on time to wake me up by 3.50am. This was an expression of longing on the side of the Holy Spirit to have fellowship with me. I loved the importance the Holy Spirit attached to this certain place and certain time principle. I felt so special just thinking that God really longed to commune with me and this feelings drove me deeper into committing to this way of life fully.

Now let us study Mark 1:35-37

The bible says:

> **"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.**
>
> **And Simon and they that were with him followed after him.**
>
> **And when they had found him, they said unto him, All men seek for thee. " – Mark 1:35-37**

"And Simon and they that were with Him followed after Him. And when they had found him..." implies the following:

1.
The disciples didn't see Jesus rise to go to His certain place of prayer. So it must have been while others were still at sleep.

2.
Jesus didn't talk to anyone when he rose up. God was the first person He spoke to that day. When we rise early in the day to pray, it affords us the opportunity to have God as the first person we speak to in a day.

3.
When the disciples woke up and didn't find Jesus in His quarters, they knew He would be at His Certain Place of Prayer and they went to look for Him there ***("Simon and they that were with Him followed after Him")***

4.
They found Him at His Certain Place of Prayer ***("And when they had found Him...")***

We see from the scriptures above that the Principle of a Certain Place and the Principle of a Certain Time are very important in developing a very strong private prayer life.

Developing a strong private prayer life is not difficult if we would practice and imbibe these two principles. They form the foun-

dation of any powerful and effective private prayer life

All that is required is the will, determination and commitment to get started and to make this your way of life, and the Holy Spirit would come along to grace you to live by it.

Living this way committedly everyday, would make you a strong prayer house; full of the Holy Ghost and Power all the time.

You would come to a level where things you sometimes lazily mention in prayers are done with quick dispatch. I have experienced this in my prayer life and it has increased my confidence and faith in believing that anything I ask for during those prayer sessions in my certain place and at the certain time are taken seriously by God and they are performed with speedy dispatch.

No wonder Jesus could boldly say before the tomb of Lazarus.

> **"Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me. And I knew that thou hearest me always" – John 11:41-42**

Jesus' prayer above was a product of His prayers and communion with God in a ***Certain Place*** and at a ***Certain Time.***

It formed a very strong bond and union between Him and God that He was so confident that what He asked of God in their ***Certain Place*** of meeting and at a ***Certain Time*** had been answered and granted by God.

This is how powerful your life can be if you would adopt these principles. Take them seriously and live daily by them and you would see the outflow of God's power daily in your life.

Why should you live this way?

God answered this question Himself.

God said:

> **".. for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." – 1 Samuel 2:30**

If you honour God each day by meeting Him in a Certain Place and at a Certain Time for private prayers and fellowship with Him, He will honour you by watching over your prayers and request to perform and execute them.

Remember your Certain Time of fellowship is different from any other type or time of prayer you have at other times and maybe in other places. This Certain Time is private and personal. It is the mother of all prayers for that day. It is a time to make your first contact with God that day (usually done before speaking to or contacting anyone that day).

5.
The last point which I saved for the last was that Jesus went to a solitary place to pray.

("He went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed")

This is the next Principle towards developing and maintaining a strong and a vibrant prayer life. More on this in the next chapter.

THE PRINCIPLE OF SOLITUDE

The word Solitude or Solitary means a state of being alone by oneself. The Principle of Solitude requires that you be alone by yourself in the presence of God, in your Certain Place and at your Certain Time of prayer.

Jesus practiced this principle and we find the account of this in **Mark 1:35:**

> **"And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and *DEPARTED INTO A SOLITARY PLACE*, and there prayed." – Mark 1:35-37**

Your Certain Place of prayer should be a ***SOLITARY PLACE***, a place where you are alone by yourself in the presence of God.

Jesus in one of His teachings also taught on the Principle of Solitude. In His teaching on this subject with regards to prayer, Jesus said:

> **"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. " – Matthew 6:6**

The power of the Principle of Solitude is found in the above scripture. Jesus said, when you want to pray, go to your certain place (a solitary place) at your certain time for prayer and pray unto your Heavenly Father. The power of it is in the statement:

> **"pray to thy Father which is in secret; and *THY FATHER WHICH SEETH IN SECRET SHALL REWARD THEE OPENLY."***

Jesus was telling us here that if we practice this principle, there is a guaranty of answered prayers.

No one prays to have his prayers unanswered.

We all pray to receive answers to our prayers.

The power of any prayer is in the supernatural answer. In other words, a prayer is said to be effective and powerful when answers are received. The answer could be healing, deliverance, prosperity, favour, divine provision or a notable miracle. Answers to prayers are what make prayer powerful.

When we go to our Certain Place (**Solitary Place**) and at our Certain Time of prayer to pray, Jesus guarantees that our Heavenly Father will surely reward us openly. All men will see the outflows and the manifestations of God's blessings in your life.

The question that comes to mind is

"What actually defines a Solitary Place?"

1.
A Solitary place of prayer should be peaceful and conducive for private and personal prayers with meditation.

2.
Do not take anything to a Solitary place of prayer that will be a source of disturbance to you.

For instance, do not take your mobile phone, mobile gadgets, or anything that would set off a sound, tune, ring or alarm into your Solitary Place

3.
Once you are in your Solitary place, those close to you who come around there should be trained not to disturb you. That means you should tell or instruct them that they should not disturb you once you are in there.

If you are in a prayer room in your home, you can hang a **"DO NOT DISTURB"** sign on the door knob. Or just train members of your household not to disturb you once they know you are inside there.

We also have to face the fact that we live in a noisy society. Your spouse could need you urgently to do something for him/her. There could also be some emergencies that requires your attention. Kids could be knocking on the door as a way of praying and seeking your

attention. All these things could distract and unsettle you during your private moments with God. This is the reason why it is recommended that you rise very early before other members of your household, to have the most important personal and private prayer session with God in your certain place of prayer.

Before other members of your household rise from bed, you would have had the best of quiet times by yourself alone with God in your certain place of prayer.

The reward of praying in a solitary place is that God would reward you (answer your prayers) openly.

THE CONTENT OF FELLOWSHIP AND THE PRAYER PROTOCOL.

"You are in your Certain Place and at the agreed Certain Time for prayers and fellowship with God; what should form the content of your fellowship?"

God has made prayer the foundation of the existence of Christianity. Through prayer, we communicate with God, effect changes on

earth and have our needs met. However, for prayer to be answered and effective, we need to obey the protocols of prayer, which are rules and spiritual principles that govern the effectives of prayer. These protocols make prayer rich and powerful to produce the intended results and much more.

Prayer Protocols form the **Content of our Fellowship** with God. Applying them makes our prayer life powerful and effective. They also help to build us up spiritual and at the same time, they build up our relationship with God.

In this chapter we shall delve into the Prayer Protocols, what they are and how they form Content of Fellowship between us and God.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 1

Thanksgiving

Psalms 100:4
"Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name."

The first protocol of prayer is **"Thanksgiving".**

The Bible instructs us in **Psalms 100:4** to enter God's presence with thanksgiving and praise. We are asked to be thankful and to bless His Name. We should be thankful and appreciative to God all the time. Thanksgiving and praise ventilates the soul and makes it conducive for God to come in and inhabit our praises. It also positions our spirits to receive from God.

God cannot stand ungratefulness and that is why ungrateful people never make any appreciable advancement in life – they lack divine favours. But on the other hand, a thankful life is a friend of God. David was always thankful and praiseful and that's why God said he is a man after my heart.

Before you start making your request known to God, spend quality time to thank Him for His mercies, love, kindness, protection, favours and blessings. This is the first protocol.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 2

Confessions, Repentance and Forgiveness

Psalms 66:18
"If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me"

The scripture above declares that God does not hear the prayers of a man living in sin. Iniquity is the number one hinderer of answered prayers, and to deal with it, the **Prayer Protocol 2: Confessions, Repentance and Receiving Forgiveness for our errors** should be applied.

The Bible declares in **1 John 1:9:**

> **"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness"**

When we confess the errors we have committed and ask God to forgive us, God in His faithfulness and love, extends His hands of mercy towards us and forgives us.

Another aspect of forgiveness hinges on our ability to forgive those who have hurt and offended us.

In Matthew 6:12,14-15, Jesus declared,

> **"And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses."**

In other words, God will not forgive those who are not able to genuinely forgive others. The result is that such people have their prayers unanswered.

No matter how grievous your offenses may be, don't dwell in the pit of dejection and condemnation. Pick up yourself, go before God and ask Him to forgive you, because Jesus said **in John 6:37:**

> **"...him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."**

God loves you and He will lovingly forgive you if you return to Him.

Also, no matter the degree of offence a person might have committed against you, forgive such a one as you would have God forgive you.

Bottling up grudges and bitterness towards another is not worth it. The only damaged goods would be you.

A simple prayer like the one below will help you to forgive those who have wronged you. You can pray the prayer and mean every word of it.

"Heavenly Father, I forgive all those who have wronged and damaged me; offended and hurt me; worked and spoken against me. I forgive them all as I would have you forgive me.

I also release them from every grudge, bitterness, ill feelings, evil thoughts and unforgiveness that I have towards them and against them; and I ask that you graciously forgive me too for all the wrong that I have done in the Name of Jesus Christ!

PRAYER PROTOCOL 3

Have A Very Strong Desire

Psalms 145:16
"Thou openest thine hand, and satisfiest the desire of every living thing"

Having a very strong desire is the third Protocol of Prayer.

When desires are not strong, prayer refuses to be fervent, effective and powerful.

Your desires should make your prayers passionate, effective, purposeful, effectual and powerful.

Your desires should drive you to your knees and cause you to lift up your hands and pour out your heart to God; with a heart that fully sees Him as the only solution to your needs.

God respects our desire, that's why He said in **Matthew 7:7,8:**

> **"Ask and you will be given; .....for anyone who ask will receive".**

A strong desire makes room for God's attention.

God who searches the heart knows how strong a person's desire is and this forms the degree of attention we get.

Place a high value on your desires and request and trust God to grant them.

Learn to develop and present strong desires to God in prayer.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 4

Have Word-of-God Approved desires And Ask

1 John 5:14-15
"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us"

"Asking anything according to God's will", means to present your Word-of-God Approved desires to God in prayer. This is the Fourth Protocol of Prayer.

There is a difference between Word-of-God Approved desires and covetousness.

God would not do anything outside His Word!
Also Faith cannot be birthed without the Word!

Word-of-God Approved desires are strictly based on the Word of God – they take their root from and have their foundation in the Word of God.

When your desires are not Word-of-God Approved, you lack confidence or faith for it. When your desires are not Word of God approved, you will find yourself ***"trying your***

luck with God in prayer" and such a person cannot receive from God.

Word-of-God Approved desires births faith which is the requirement to receiving anything from God.

Nothing strengthens a lawyer's confidence in the law court than knowing the constitution and the rule of law. The same applies to Christians. Nothing strengthens a Christian's confidence and faith to receiving anything from God than his knowledge of the Word of God and the provisions God Has made for us through His Word.

Word defined desires can get anything done in the place of prayer. Faith is a function of Word-of-God based Persuasion and persuasion is a function of Word-of-God based references; that is, reference made and quoted from the Word of God to approve and validate our claims and desires.

When you pray applying the fourth prayer protocol of ***"Having Word-of-God Approved desires"***, your faith becomes stronger and supernaturally positioned to receive, and this, to a very large extent, reduces our man-made efforts in prayer.

So whenever you have a desire, run a check on the provisions God Has made in the Bible to fulfilling that desire; get scriptures that backs your desires or biblical references where God promised to grant your desire. With those scriptures and promises of God at

your disposal, argue your case and make your request known to God.

HOW TO ASK ANYTHING FROM GOD INCLUDING PROSPERITY

One of the greatest desires of man is to be able to change negative or contrary circumstances into good and positive ones. The poor want to be rich; the sick want to be healthy; the unemployed want to have a well paying job or business; those with terminal illnesses who have been given up to die want to miraculously recover and live; those with trouble in their marriage want restoration, peace and love to reign; the man who just lost his job wants to get a better one immediately; the couple yet to have the blessing of the fruit of the womb want God's divine intervention; a man living on the streets with no roof over his head wants the blessing of accommodation; the man with the law suit wants to be discharged and acquitted. The list goes on. There is no person on earth that does not want to change a particular or several situations and circumstances in his life.

Is it your destiny to suffer and live in poverty?
Who is to blame?

The sad thing is that a very high percentage of people have resorted to what they call 'fate' or 'my destiny', and because they have tried to change their situation and failed several times they resort to saying that the condition of life they have found themselves in is their destiny or fate in life. You can change all the negative situations in your life by the instrument of **Word-of-God-based prayers** via the principle of **ASKING GOD!.**

No matter how deep a man is in poverty, sickness, stagnancy, failure, and depravity, he can come out of it today by properly applying the instrument of the **Word-of-God-based prayers!.**

It is the will of God that we prosper (3 John 2). But when a person finds him or herself in a state of **"TIGHTNESS"**, the right person has to be contacted and that person is God. Secondly, the right approach is supposed to be taken to get the blessings. The right approach is through the Word of God.

God would not do anything outside His Word. Praying with scriptures is the key to having a very strong case to make before God. It guarantees that you get answers to your prayers. It also guarantees that the supernatural is made manifest in your life and ministry.

GOD'S RECOMMENDATION FOR PRAYER

In the book of Isaiah Chapter 43, God gave us a blue print of how to pray effectively and get results.

> **"Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified." – Isaiah 43:26**

From the verse of scripture above, God asked us to *"Put Him in remembrance".*

In remembrance of what? His Word!

What this means is that we are expected to get verses of scriptures that deals with a need or a situation and present them to God to argue our case and have our request granted.

God went further to say, *"Let us plead together".* That implies the presentation and argument of your case with strong reasons. Your strong reasons are the verses of scripture that concerns your needs.

God finalized His instructions by saying ***"Declare thou, that thou mayest be justified".***

This simply means we are to use the verses of scripture we have presented to make our request known to Him.

"That thou mayest be justified", means presenting verses of scripture to God and using them to make our request known unto Him, puts us in a right position to receive answers to our prayers.

In Isaiah 41:21, God instructed us again saying:

> **"Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob." - Isaiah 41:21**

"Produce your cause" simply means to bring our request and desires to Him.

"Bring forth your strong reasons" means in presenting our needs and desires, we should produce strong reason why He should grant them.

The Word of God is the ONLY strong reason God would attend to. Strong reasons are:

- **Promises of God to do a thing**
- **Instances in the bible where God did something similar to what you desire for someone**
- **Provisions of God made for you to achieve something (life, work, or ministry)**
- **What God said you are and should become**

When we bring forth and present our strong reasons, this puts us in a right position to receive answers to our prayers.

WHY WOULD GOD ANSWER PRAYERS BASED ON HIS WORD?

The answer to this question is found in the first chapter of book of Jeremiah. The Bible validates the faithfulness and truthfulness of God in:

> **Jeremiah 1:12:**
> **"I will hasten (supervise, watch-over, protect, look after) My Word to perform it ..."**

God would answer our Word of God based prayers because He watches over His Word to perform or demonstrate it. Another reason why God would give attention to and answer Word of God based prayers is because God has placed the greatest and utmost value on His Word. The bible confirms this by declaring thus:

> **"Thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name." – Psalms 138:2**

Jesus also confirmed this by saying:

> **"Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" - Matthew 24:35**

The Bible also declares:

"There has not failed one Word of all His good promise....." - 1 Kings 8:56

No word spoken by God has ever failed. God daily – moment by moment, watches over His Word to perform it. So when you pray Word of God based prayers, you are guaranteed that you will have whatsoever you desire. John the Apostle confirmed this also when He said:

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." - 1 John 5:14-15

Asking anything according to the will of God means to pray in line with the Word of God. Using the promises or the Word of God to pray gives us confidence that what we asked for would be granted. This is how we become effective in prayer and in ministry.

THE LAW COURT EXAMPLE

When an attorney goes to court on behalf of his client, he does not just stand before the judge and say "Mt Lord, I demand that you give judgment in favour of my client" No

judge would respond to that. The attorney would have to produce evidences, witnesses, or reference to results of similar cases that was settled in court. The final judgment given by the judge would be based on the weight, relevance and validity of those evidences, testimonies of witnesses and similar case references sighted and used by the attorney to prove his case.

The above law court scenario is similar to praying with scriptures. God is the Judge; you are the attorney; and the Word God with references to his promises, similar cases as yours and other Holy Spirit interpretation of the meaning of scripture make up the evidences, testimonies of witnesses and similar case references.

Taking all of these and presenting them before God is the art of praying with scriptures.

PRAYING WITH THE SCRIPTURES IS NOT THE SAME AS VAIN REPETITION

In the court of law, the attorney stands before the judge on behalf of his client just for **ONE THING!** ***For the judge to pass judgment in favour of his client.*** He uses several words, similar case references, testimonials of witnesses to ask and demand for just this **ONE THING – PASS THE JUDGEMENT IN THE FAVOUR OF MY CLIENT!**

The attorney keeps at this – he repeats this process using different approach until he exhausts every thing he has. This how praying with scriptures is all about.

Praying with the scripture like in the example above is not what Jesus described as vain repetition in Matthew 6:7.

The reason is this:

In the art of Scripture Prayer, the prayer point maybe the same, but they make references to different scriptural verses. It's like in a law court where an attorney uses several instances of the outcome of previous and similar law suits to present his case so that the Judge will rule in his favour.

Attorneys also make references to the constitution in order to prove that their case is worthy of merit and that the sitting judge should rule in their favour.

The Word of God we make reference to is our Kingdom Constitution. When we make reference to several scriptural verses and use each reference to ask God to do a thing, we amass enough spiritual energy to deliver the answer.

I can make demand for one thing using several scriptural verses that covers it and this always gets me results. This is persistence in prayer.

POWER OF PERSISTENCE IN PRAYER

Abraham's prayer to the Lord to save Lot and His family from the destruction coming upon Sodom is a perfect example of persistence prayer (Genesis 18:17 – 33).

Abraham made his request known unto God by making references to specific numbers. He made reference to 50, 45, 40, 30, 20, 10 righteous people in Sodom.

He was trying to get God to spare Lot and his family. Those number references are a type of scripture verses that we use in prayer.

When we make references to scriptural verses of the bible and use them to ask God to do a thing, we would get answers to our prayers just as Abraham did.

Another classic example is found in the book of Luke 18:1-8 - New International Version (NIV). It's about the persistent widow.

The Parable of the Persistent Widow

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought.

And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.'

"For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'"

And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

The bible declares that the widow **"Kept coming with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary'"**.

She wouldn't give up. She kept on coming at the Judge with the same request, until the Judge ruled in her favour.

The principle of persistence in prayer

- **Prayer should be made with patience and perseverance** - Psalms 40:1; Psalms 88:1 (See also 1Chronicles 16:11; Psalms 116:2)

- **Jesus Christ taught his disciples to persist in prayer** - Luke 18:1-8 (See also Luke 11:5-10)

- **Persistence in prayer was exemplified in the early church** - Acts 1:14 (See also Ac 2:42)

- **Paul exhorted the churches to practice persistent prayer** - Ephesians 6:18 (See also Ro 12:12; 1Thessalonians 5:17)

Examples of persistence in prayer

- **Abraham pleads persistently for Sodom** - Genesis 18:23-33

- **Jacob persists in wrestling with God** - Genesis 32:24-32

- **Moses persists in interceding for Israel** - Deuteronomy 9:25-29 (See also Exodus 32:31-32)

- **Hannah persistently asks for a son** - Isaiah 1:10-11

- **Elijah persists in prayer about the rain** - James 5:17-18 (See also 1 Kings 18:36-44)

- **The psalmists persist in calling out to God** - Psalm 88:1-18; Psalms 119:147-149; Psalms 130:1-6

- **Jesus Christ persisted in pursuing the Father's will** - Luke 22:42-44, Matthew 26:36-43, Mark 14:32-40

The supernatural power of God and the anointing are available for you to get answers to your prayers. See this exercise as a means of advancing and attaining new heights in your life with guaranteed victory and success. All that is required is faith.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 5

Obedience

Psalms 41:1-2
"Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."

The fifth protocol of prayer is **OBEDIENCE!** Considering the scripture above, you will definitely realize if you study closely that there is a part for us to play and there is part God is to play in the manifestation of the blessing.

Our part is outlined in: **"Considereth the poor"**. In other words, we help, favour and give to the poor and needy around us.

God's part is outlined in: **"the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies."**

Note the use of **"the LORD will"** in the above scripture.

When we do our part, ***"the LORD will"*** do His part. We must fulfill our part before the blessings of God in **Psalms 41:1-2**, which is activated ONLY by God, is fulfilled in our lives; and to fulfill our part requires willingness and obedience.

When we apply God's Word in prayer, we should be careful; to consider and do the instructions attached to any promise in order to see the fulfillment or the manifestation of the blessing in our lives.

There is a guaranty that God will fulfill His part because God is never in the business of owing anybody.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 6

Ask in Jesus Name

In the Fourth Protocol of Prayer we dealt extensively with the subject of **Asking** in prayer **based on the Word of God**. There is another Prayer Protocol that is related to **Asking**. It is found in **John 16:23.**

> **John 16:23**
> **"...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you."**

The sixth protocol of prayer is **ASKING IN THE NAME OF JESUS!**

Jesus in **John 16:23** instructed us to pray in His Name.

Almost every Christian in the world knows about the sixth protocol of prayer and its importance in getting answers to prayer, but many don't know how to properly apply it to get results.

Jesus didn't say ***"Ask through my Name"***.

We don't pray or ask through the Name of Jesus; we pray and ask **IN THE NAME OF JESUS!**

The scripture above reveals to us that God the Father does not give us anything through the Name of Jesus, but we receive from Him **"in the Name of Jesus"**. A number of scriptures in the Words of Jesus Himself prove this fact. They are as follows:

John 14:14
"And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. .... If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it."

John 15:16
"...whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

John 16:24
"Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

From the very Words of Jesus in the scriptures alone, **"ASKING"** should be done **"IN THE NAME OF JESUS!"**

PRAYER PROTOCOL 7

Believe you have received the answer

Mark 11:24
"Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.."

Believing that you have received the answer to your request immediately after asking in the Name of Jesus is the seventh protocol of prayer.

Many folks wait to see before they can believe they have received. Spiritual things in the Kingdom of God, does not work that way, and that's why many hardly receive anything from God even after asking in the Name of Jesus.

Jesus in **Mark 11:24** said:

> **"...when you pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them".**

In other words, we are to have faith that the answer has been delivered into our hands

immediately after asking in the Name of Jesus before we can see its physical manifestation. This is how we express our faith in God in prayer.

Apostle Paul in **2 Corinthians 4:13** said:

> **"We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak;"**

When you ask anything thing in the Name of Jesus, believe that you have received it NOW and go ahead and declare that the answer is in your hands. This is another way faith is expressed.

Faith does not wait for the physical manifestation of the answer before believing; faith takes a hold of the answer in the spirit immediately after asking in the Name of Jesus and this is how the physical manifestation is guaranteed. Live and pray this way. It works!

PRAYER PROTOCOL 8

Spiritual Warfare

Many of us pray for diver's kinds of things, we keep on waiting for the answer and it almost feels as though it is taking "forever" for the answer in coming. Why don't we get the needed answers to prayers? Why are there delays in answers to prayers? And how can we get answers to our prayers the way it ought to be?

NO DEVIL CAN HINDER PRAYERS

I have often heard people pray something like "I destroy the spirit of hindrance assigned to hinder my prayers", or "I bind the devil sent to hinder my prayers". These forms of prayers imply that there are devils assigned to hinder prayers from getting to God. There is no place in the scriptures where we are told that devils hinder prayers. To understand this fully, we need to first understand the meaning of prayer.

In a very simple term, prayer is a way of communicating our desires to God. When we pray, we talk to God; we speak and make

expressions of our desires to God. Now, the question is:

> **"Can what we say to God be hindered by a devil?"**

The answer is "NO!" The only thing that can hinder what we express or say in getting to God is sin. The Bible says in:

> **Isaiah 59:2**
> **"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."**

The only thing recorded in the bible that can hinder our communications or the expressions of our desires to God is sin, and not devils. So it is really sin that hinders our prayers from getting to God and not a devil.

WRONG ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PRAYER HINDRANCES

This assumption that prayers can be hindered from getting to God is wrongly taken from the tenth chapter of Daniel. We need to correct this wrong assumption in order to get prayer right and get answers to our prayers the way it ought to be.

In the tenth chapter of Daniel, we see Daniel making a request of God – an expression of his desires via prayers. In order words, he told God some certain things he would want him to do for him. This is prayer.

Daniel we are told prayed and fasted for twenty one days about this desire of his. Daniel said:

> **"In those days I Daniel was mourning three full weeks. I ate no pleasant bread, neither came flesh nor wine in my mouth, neither did I anoint myself at all, till three whole weeks were fulfilled." - Daniel 10:2-3**

On the twenty fourth day, and angel with the answer to Daniels prayers appeared to him and said:

> **"O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, DANIEL: FOR**

FROM THE FIRST DAY THAT THOU DIDST SET THINE HEART TO UNDERSTAND, AND TO CHASTEN THYSELF BEFORE THY GOD, THY WORDS WERE HEARD, AND I AM COME FOR THY WORDS." - Daniel 10: 11-12

Notice that the angel said that from the very moment that Daniel prayed his prayers were heard and God immediately sent his angel with the answer. The very moment Daniel prayed, God heard and sent the answer. But something happened in the spirit realm that hindered the answer from getting to Daniel.

TERRITORIAL SPIRITS HINDER ANSWERS TO PRAYERS AND NOT PRAYERS

The angel of the Lord declared to Daniel that while he was coming to deliver the answer from God in response to his prayer request to him, that the territorial spirit over the region where Daniel lived and was praying withstood him for twenty one days. The angel of the Lord was not able to pass through with the answer to Daniel. The angel said:

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to

make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days." - Daniel 10:13-14

The Prince of the Kingdom of Persia is the territorial spirit – the ruling spirit that Satan assigned to oversee the affairs of that region. He regulates and monitors every spiritual transaction in that region. He stands and works against spiritual transactions between God and men.

Now notice, the angel did not say, the Prince of the Kingdom of Persia or the territorial spirit hindered Daniels prayer request from reaching or ascending to God. He didn't say the territorial spirit hindered or kept Daniels prayers from being heard by God. If it were so, the angel wouldn't have said, from the moment Daniel prayed, God heard and sent the answer.

"DANIEL: FOR FROM THE FIRST DAY THAT THOU DIDST SET THINE HEART TO UNDERSTAND, AND TO CHASTEN THYSELF BEFORE THY GOD, THY WORDS WERE HEARD, AND I AM COME FOR THY WORDS." - Daniel 10: 11-12

Daniels prayers were heard the same moment Daniel prayed. So what was hindered? The answer is found in Daniel 10:13-14:

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."
- Daniel 10:13-14

THE ANSWER TO THE PRAYERS WAS HINDERED!

The prayers – the expression of Daniel's desires were not hindered by the territorial devil over Persia, what was hindered was the answer to Daniel's Prayers.
So, Devils don't hinder prayers – the expression of our desires to God. What they hinder is the **ANSWER TO OUR PRAYERS!**
Once the sin question is taken care of and we pray, God answers immediately, but the territorial devils over the region or state, or street or neighbourhood where we live may go into effect to hinder the answers to our prayers.

To get the answer to Daniel Prayer to him, God had to send a warrior angel called Arch Angel Michael to war against the territorial spirit over Persia and clear the way for Gods messenger angel to pass through and deliver the answer to Daniel.

"But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and

twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. Now I am come to make thee understand what shall befall thy people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days."
- Daniel 10:13-14

It was only after Arch Angel Michael cleared the way that the angel was able to get the answers through to Daniel.
This is the reason why we need to engage in Spiritual warfare to bind and cast the territorial devil out of the path of the answer to our prayers from God to us.

- **With this information, you can:**
- **Get answers to your prayers with ease**
- **You can get answers to your prayers on time**
- **You can change things that have gone wrong in your life on earth from the spirit realm by engaging in spiritual warfare and prophetic prayers**

There is nothing you cannot achieve in God this way.

Many think the source of their problems is man. Our battle is not with men, but with spiritual devils. These are spirit beings that operate in the spiritual realm. What they do in the spirit realm, if not checked, can adversely affect the fulfillment of a man's destiny on earth.

Our battle is not with men or women. Our battle is with devils. The Word of GOD says:

> **"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." - Ephesians 6:12**

From the scripture above, our battle is not with men but with devils – they manipulate situations against people in an attempt to keep them under. But as believers, we have the power and the authority to bind these devils and cast them out. Jesus gave us this power and authority as declared in the following scriptures:

> **"And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sick-**

ness and all manner of disease." – Matthew 10:1

"And the seventy returned again with joy, saying, Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name." - Luke 10:17

"Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you." - Luke 10:19

"And I will give unto thee THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN." - Matthew 16:19

"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils..." - Mark 16:17

From the scriptures above, we have been given the authority and power over devils and it is our responsibility to bind them and cast them out:

> **"And I will give unto thee THE KEYS OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT BIND ON EARTH SHALL BE BOUND IN HEAVEN: AND WHATSOEVER THOU SHALT LOOSE ON EARTH SHALL BE LOOSED IN HEAVEN." - Matthew 16:19**

> **"And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils..." - Mark 16:17**

We have the Keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. What we bind on earth is bound in heaven; what we loose on earth is loosed in heaven".

In other Words, when we bind devils here on earth, God rebukes them in the spirit realm on our behalf and keeps them from devouring and attacking our lives and resources. Unfortunately, many believers don't know that they can change things in the spiritual to affect them in the physical realm by the simple act of binding, loosing and casting out in Jesus Name!

You can change your life, fulfill destiny, prosper, live healthy, get daily favours, have all that makes for a good living and live free of sickness, death and afflictions by putting things in place in the spirit realm via spiritual warfare and decrees based on the word of God.

You can control and determine what happens to you and your family by spiritual warfare.

SAMPLE SPIRITUAL WARFARE PRAYER

A simple spiritual warfare prayer like the one below can be used to bind devils assigned to hinder answers to your prayers from getting to you.

"I bind every territorial devil and every evil spirit assigned to hinder the answers to my prayers; I bind their powers, works, operations, manipulations and manifestations designed to hinder answers to my prayers and also designed to work against me.

By the power of the Holy Spirit, I loose all the answers to my prayers from every demonic hold, hindrances, manipulations, power, presence and spiritual barricade and I cast every territorial spirit and evil spirits involved in this out of the path of the answers to my prayers to me in the Name of Jesus Christ!

I release God's angels with answers to my prayers to come freely to me with ease and deliver the answers to my prayers to me in the Name of Jesus Christ!

I declare by the Power of the Holy Spirit that I have NOW the answers to my prayers in the Name of Jesus Christ!"

The spiritual warfare prayer above involves the application of the two basic principles of spiritual warfare which are **BINDING** and **LOOSING!**

Praying this way in your Certain Place and at your Certain Time of Prayer with God

makes answers easier to be delivered unto you.

Spiritual warfare is a must for prayer to be powerful, effective and guaranteed.

Spiritual warfare works!

PRAYER PROTOCOL 9

Thank God for granting the answer

I Thessalonians 5:18
" In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you"

Giving thanks and praise to God for granting the answer to our request is the eight protocol of prayer.

This is another way to express your faith that God is in control and that you are assured by His Word that He has delivered the answer into your hands.

God in His wisdom, in the Book of Daniel, revealed to us how He responds when we ask Him anything in prayer:

Daniel 10:12:
"Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words."

GOD ANSWERS THE VERY FIRST DAY WE ASK ANTHING IN PRAYER! In other Words, God responds **IMMEDIATELY!**

Like in the case of Daniel, there are times that principalities may create barriers in the spirit realm to hinder the answers from coming to us (Daniel 10:1-14). This is when our thanksgiving and praise should be hottest.

Thanksgiving with praise is one of the greatest weapons of spiritual warfare God has given to us. **In 2 Chronicles 20:1-30**, King Jehoshaphat applied thanksgiving and praise during warfare and the army of Israel never lifted up a finger in battle. God fought the war for them, obtained the victory for them and delivered the spoils into their hands.

Thanking God for the answer, before you see it physically maintains and refreshes your faith and this action in many ways pleases God.

Also, thanking God for the answer before you see it physically keeps you from saying negative things about your situation. You are always positive, expectant and full of hope, thanks and life. This is what breaks the barriers and releases the divine answers to prayer.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 10

Listen Well

When you are in the presence of God and are praying, learn to listen to Him.

Listening Well is the ninth prayer protocol.

Character moulding is one of the basis and benefits of prayer and being in the presence of God.

We often find ourselves doing all the talking when we are praying. We forget that God also speaks; and He would want to guide us, instruct us and lead us as per what we have asked of Him or are requesting Him to do for us.

He may also want to warn us of impending danger and show us what we must do to avoid them. But if we are the ones doing all the talking while communing with God, never allow Him to speak to us, how would He then be able to guide and lead us to the right part to getting a miracle or a blessing? This is the reason why many believers fail woefully today even after praying and having great faith.

In some cases, we insist on our own way; that God should do it our own way, meanwhile God is speaking and telling us that the way we have chosen to follow to get what

we desire is wrong; He is speaking, telling us to follow another part to achieve what we desire, but because we are blinded with our own way, we miss it and end up failures or in trouble in what could have been a blessing if only we had listen well.

To be self-seeking is to be "Mindful of, or promoting only ones own interests". It is a way of life where ONLY one owns way matters and that of others does not. The opinions or interest of others always takes the back seat in your life.

To insist on your own rights or your own way is to demand continually that something be done your way, without listen to or considering reasons why it would not favour anybody or go well if it is that way. This is how we treat God when we don't allow Him to speak to us at the place of prayer. This is also how we treat God if we are not listening well. If you are functioning this way, then you are not functioning rightly in the place of prayer.

T.L Osborne, when he was visiting with the Late Arch Bishop Benson Idahosa, once said:

> **"...the reason why Christians fail is because they don't listen well."**

Not listening well, not considering the views and opinions of God when He is speaking to us has wrecked many dreams, lives, ventures, relationships, and great projects.

Always insisting on your own way will soon lead to being delisted from the ladder of life to the top.

As T.L Osborne advised:

> **"Let us learn to listen well".**

In everything and under all circumstances, during and after prayer, be calm and listen to God. Don't be too in a hurry to leave God's presence after prayer. Wait on the Lord and listen to His voice. He will surely speak to you to bless, guide, instruct, redirect, warn or encourage you.

Apostle Paul advised that we:

> **"Study to be quiet". 1 Thessalonians 4:11**

This implies calming down to weigh all the angles by listening well. God would always show up to speak when we take the initiative to listen for His voice in prayer.

PRAYER PROTOCOL 11

The Exercise Of Faith Before, During And After Prayer

The book of Hebrews the eleventh chapter and the first verse defines faith thus:

> **"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." – Hebrews 11:1**

In other words:

> **"Faith is the title deed to the property or blessing you know you possess or have already, even though you have not yet seen it"**

Putting it in another form of definition:

> **"Faith is expecting without wavering God to do what you know and believe He has said in His Word that He will do."**

What the above definition implies is that Faith is actually a state of believing wholeheartedly that God always speaks the truth. When He promises to do something He will do it.

When He promises He has done something, it means He has indeed done it.

So what is expected of us in this case of faith?

Simple: We accept and believe the truth and go ahead and act on it.

To help you appreciate these definition of faith, you must understand and believe that:

> **"God has never and will never ask us to exercise faith for something He has not first promised to do for us in His Word!"**

Faith is only exercised and expected when a promise is given. If God didn't promise it; provide it or do it; He wouldn't expect you to exercise faith to receive it.

When God is dealing with His Children, He would give a promise FIRST and reveal that promise to you. Then when you take a hold of that promise and that promise creates faith in you which in turn produces some form of action from you, God goes ahead to fulfill or grant the promise.

WHY WE SHOULD HAVE FAITH IN GOD?

Why should we have faith in God?

To answer this question, I will share with you a couple of basic scriptures that address this question:

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good? " – Numbers 23:19

"Blessed be the LORD, that hath given rest unto his people Israel, according to all that he promised: there hath not failed one word of all his good promise, which he promised by the hand of Moses his servant." – 1 Kings 8:56

"Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten (watch over) my word to perform it". Jeremiah 1:12

"Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." - 1 Thessalonians 5:24

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." – Hebrews 11:6

".... The just shall live by faith. " – Romans 1:17; Galatians 3:11; Hebrews 10:38

The following highlighted points are the solid reasons why we should have faith in God:

1.
God cannot lie

2.
When God says He would do something, He will do it.

3.
God always keeps His Word

4.
No one word of His good promises has failed

5.
God always watches over His Word to perform it

6.
God is Faithful

7.
Without Faith you cannot please God.

8.
Faith is the only currency with which we transact in heaven from the earth. In other words, faith is the legal tender in heaven. Without faith you cannot **"buy and sell"** in heaven.

9.
The just shall live by faith

There is no gain for anyone who does not have faith in God.

THE NATURE OF FAITH

The following are the nature of faith.

1.
Faith expects that you accept, believe and take action in obedience when God speaks or has spoken.

2.
True faith in God and His Word requires that you step out in complete obedience upon what God has said or promised, regardless of what one sees, feels or senses in the natural; regardless also of the odds that are stacked against you in life

In other words, faith requires action in the direction of God's Word despite contrary circumstances and situations you may be facing.

3.
Faith ignores every natural symptom or evidence which is contrary to the Word and Promises of God

4.
Faith is a decisive act. Once you have taken a hold of God's Word or promise – you take decisive steps towards it's actualization in your life.

5.
Faith believes that God would do His own end of the deal and deliver His own end of the package.

When you pray the prayer of faith or ask God for to fulfill His Word or promise in your life, then you leave the results with Him, knowing and believing that according to His Word, it shall come to pass in your life!.

6.
Faith doesn't look to God for signs and wonders before believing and acting on God's Word.

Faith believes **FIRST** and the signs and wonders would follow.

In **Mark 16:17,** Jesus said:

> **"These signs shall follow them that believe "**

It is not the other way round. Believing does not follow signs and wonders. In other words, signs and wonders do not precede believing faith.

Believing faith has to be first. Before you can see signs and wonders, you have to believe first.

A lot of folks say: ***"Seeing is believing"***

Other say ***"I have to see before I can believe"***

In **Psalms 27:13**, the psalmist said:

> **"I had believed to see..."**

He didn't say:

"I have to see first before I would believe"

Believing to see is faith! Waiting to see before you believe is doubt and you will never get anything from God this way.

Faith does not require God to give you a sign and wonder first before believing He has answered your prayers.

Faith does not does not require signs and wonders in order to verify God's promises, or ro give evidence that He will fulfill His promises.

If you have faith and act in obedience to God's Word in line with your faith, you will invariably see the manifestation of what you desire in your life.

THE LIFE SPAN OF FAITH

> **"Then when Mary was come where Jesus was, and saw him, she fell down at his feet, saying unto him, Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died." - John 11:32 KJV**

When a man is sick, there is always hope of his recovery. Loved ones still believe someway, somehow, a miracle healing can still be pulled off. They hang in there and hold on in faith, trusting, praying and believing God. But when the person dies, even faith for recovery dies. They all give up and stop believing because death in a way was the deadline, and when they got to the deadline, they didn't have the courage or faith to believe God beyond their deadline.

This was the case of Mary and Martha in the scripture above. Death was their deadline. Anything before death was still okay. Hear her carefully:

> **"Lord, if thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."**

In other words, Lord before his death, we had hope and faith for a miracle, but after death, nothing can be done.

A lot of us folks are accustomed to setting deadlines. We get so fixated on our deadlines. While praying, while thinking solutions and even in our attitude and interactions with people, we focus so much on our deadlines. There is actually nothing wrong with deadlines and being focused on one or working towards one. The issue here is that we have built up ourselves to be hopeful, faith filled and expectant before our deadlines, but in most cases we lack capacity to trust God and still wait on him beyond our deadline. Why?

> **We have not built up ourselves to have faith beyond deadlines.**

The death of Lazarus and the events that happened before and after his death is Gods way of teaching us to believe him beyond our deadline.

God from the miracle raising of Lazarus from the dead after four days showed us that:

1. **FAITH HAS NO DEADLINE**
2. **FAITH HAS NO LIFE SPAN – IT DOES NOT EXPIRE!**

God proved to us that He can still give us the much needed miracle that will settle not just the issue before our deadline, but every other unknown issue that will rear its ugly head after the deadline.

He proved this by the raising of Lazarus from the dead even after he had lain dead, placed in a tomb and stinking for four days.

If Lazarus had been healed before his death, probably only a few would hear about it. But a four days dead Lazarus was raised from the dead and completely made whole - the whole city heard about it and Lazarus got another better package of becoming a celebrity witness of Christ in that City.

You may have trusted God for something and set a deadline for its fulfillment and saw no manifestation. The answer is not in giving up. God is never too late, and He is never too early. At the right time He will do it.

The answer before your deadline might not be a complete package. Though targets unmet, prayers unanswered and goals unachieved before deadlines could be very painful and discouraging. The best way to go is to never give up - believe God beyond your deadline. Still see Him working, making all things to work together for your good and in your favour. That time in your life would be the time to see realignment and rearrangement taking place in the realm of the spirit in your favour.

Maybe the job, the pregnancy, the promotion, the admission, the money or what have you didn't come before your deadline, just believe God and go ahead and continue trusting him and have faith in Him beyond your deadline.

He is working! He will do it even greater and better beyond your expectations.

God is never too late and He is never too early; at the right time, He will do what He has promised in His Word.

PRINCIPLE OF CEASING

The last and final principle of developing and maintaining a strong and a vibrant prayer life is the Principle of Ceasing or finishing.

This principle is also found playing out in the prayer life of Jesus Christ and it is found in **Luke 11:1**

> **"And It Came To Pass, That, As He Was Praying In A Certain Place, *WHEN HE CEASED*, one of his disciples said unto him, Lord, teach us to pray, as John also taught his disciples. " – Luke 11:1**

"WHEN HE CEASED" as used in the King James Version (KJV) of the bible was rendered ***"WHEN HE FINISHED"*** in the New International Version (NIV).

What this means is that your Certain Place of Prayer, you should **FINISH** your prayers. Nothing should be left hanging.

Another implication of this is that you should not hurriedly leave God's presence. You must finish your prayers.

If your Certain Time spans a period of 30 minutes, you should either complete it or extend it. It should not be less. This is where personal discipline comes in. Leave out anything and everything from your Certain Place of Prayer that might distract you or make you end your fellowship with God hurriedly. Turn off or leave out your mobile phone. Just do away with distractions.

You should not hurriedly leave the presence of God to attend to visitors or to suddenly attend to some chores, etc. That Certain Time is unto the Lord, so honour Him with it

Acting and functioning this way as I said, requires discipline of the mind and will. It is a favourable way to relate with God because what you are doing is honouring God and God would in turn honor you for it.

God said:

> **".. for them that honour me I will honour, and they that despise me shall be lightly esteemed." – 1 Samuel 2:30**

Honour the Lord by finishing your prayers – the time you have allotted to fellowship with Him.

FULFILLMENT OF DESTINY THROUGH THE POWER OF PRAYER

Jeremiah 29:11
"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

The scripture above reveals that God's plan and will is for us to have an expected end. In other words, ***"The Fulfillment of Destiny"***.

There is a divine path that God has designed for us to follow towards the fulfillment of our destiny. This path is usually rough and contested by the devil. In severe cases Satan has applied the instrument of premature death in-order to abort the destinies of so many people. Our job is to stand our ground and enforce God's Word and will in our lives through the power of prayer.

A man cannot fulfill his destiny if the power and the hand of the Lord is not upon him. Prayer is the key that opens the door to God's divine power for fulfillment of destiny. You will have to engage in spiritual warfare

against the forces that has being assigned to keep you from fulfilling your destiny. This involves binding and rebuking the devils working against you and making Word of God Based destiny fulfillment decrees to enforce God's will in your life. This why Jesus said in **I Thessalonians 5:17, "Pray without ceasing."** To relent in prayer is to give room to the devil to thwart the fulfillment of destiny. Never stop spending time in prayer to pray about the fulfillment of your destiny. You should not wait until there is a problem before praying prayer should be a constant thing and should be maintained.

Go ahead and make the confessions below and afterwards, read my Favour Prayers for you and say **"Amen!"** in agreement.

CONFESSION

"In agreement with Jeremiah 29:11, I declare that God's thoughts of peace towards me and His will for me to have an expected end shall be fulfilled in my life in Jesus Name! I shall fulfill my destiny and nothing, both spiritual and physical shall abort it in Jesus Name!"

FAVOUR PRAYER WITH EZEKIEL BENSON

"I bind all the forces of darkness assigned to work against you in aborting your destiny. I bind their powers from working against you and I destroy all their works and activities against the fulfillment of your destiny in Jesus Name! I decree by the power of the Holy Spirit that the fulfillment of your destiny shall not be aborted; you shall fulfill your destiny in Jesus Name!"

use and application of Prayer of Agreement in any situation.

Some believers pray and make demands of God for diversity of blessings not having the slightest idea of what scripture backs them up, and that's why they hardly see results.

When you know what God says about a matter and go into prayer of agreement with someone about it in line with what God says, the faith of God which Jesus tells us about in **Mark 11: 22** comes to you and your faith is built up and becomes stronger delivering

the needed miracle to you. It works this way because you know you have a backing from God's Word.

Apostle John puts it this way:

> **1 John 5:14-15**
> **"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him. "**

In **1 John 5:14-15**, Apostle John talks about the ***CONFIDENCE*** that we have in God when we ask Him anything according to His will.

According to His will means *"according to"* or *"in-line with God's Word"*.

While I was studying this scripture, the Holy Spirit impressed a new definition for prayer in my heart.

> **"Prayer is to make a demand on what God Has already provided for us in His Word to be made manifest in the physical realm in your life."**

When I aligned this definition with scripture, I realized that it is very true. For example, salvation has been provided for by God through His Son Jesus Christ. To get it, we need to make a demand on it to be made manifest in our lives through prayers.

Healing has been provided for by the Lord, but to get it we need to make a demand on it to be made manifest in our lives by prayer.

This is also true for prosperity, favour, good success, long life and any other blessing that is wrapped up in salvation. This gave a new meaning to **1 John 5:14-15** to me. Which goes thus:

> **"This is the confidence that we have in God, that, if we make a demand through prayer on any thing God Has already provided for us according to His will or His Word, to be made manifest in the physical realm in our lives, He hears us:**
>
> **And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we make a demand of to be made manifest in our lives, we know that we have the release, and the activation and the manifestation of such things in our lives."**

The ***confidence*** that Apostle John said we have comes from knowing and believing that God Has made a provision for what we are demanding for to be made manifest in our lives through His Word. This kind of confidence which is an element of faith does not come unless we know what provisions God Has made to cater to our particular need in His Word.

To get great results from prayer of agreement:

> **You must know what God said about a matter. You must believe it and then make demands for it through prayer before you can see the manifestation.**

A lot of folks pray and ask for diversity of things, but if you ask them to back it up with the Word of God, they don't seem to know. No wonder, along the line, when some little trouble comes, they end up saying the opposite of what they have been believing and trusting God for. WHY? They don't have the confidence or faith that comes by knowing what God Has said about the issue at hand in His Word.

I have also seen folks who prayer with all vigor and energy; and after a while, when they don't see any manifestation of what

they have been praying for, they begin to doubt if their prayer is really working. If you have confidence in God, you would not doubt; you would maintain your confession in line with what you have asked God for and also in line with your faith in God that He has answered you until you see the result.

Why is it possible to continue believing God in faith for a blessing when all the things around you says "nothing is working"?. The answer is simple: Our prayers from the beginning are based on the Word of God and backed by God's Word:

> **"for this is the confidence that we have in God, that, if we make a demand through prayer on anything God Has already provided for us according to His will or His Word, to be made manifest in the physical realm in our lives, He hears us:**
>
> **And if we know that He hear us, whatsoever we make a demand of to be made manifest in our lives, we know that we have the release, and the activation and the manifestation of such things in our lives."**

The solution is to get the Word of God that backs up our prayers and make demands of God for the desired blessing based strictly on the Word of God, and not on what we have heard others say that sounds good to us or what our circumstances dictates.

We are to agree with the Word of God about our needs and pray what God is saying, and not what our circumstances dictates or what we hear others saying that sounds good to us.

How do we know what God is saying? By reading and studying the Bible everyday. Whatever is written in the Bible is what God is saying to us.

> **Matthew 18:19**
> **Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven**

To effectively engage in Prayer of Agreement with someone requires that we stand together in faith and in agreement with God's Word. When we engage in prayer of agreement this way, Jesus promised us with a guarantee, that we shall have what we desire done unto us.

POWER DECLARATIONS AND CONFESSIONS

In this section I am sharing with you 28 power packed declarations and confessions you can make at the end of your prayer sessions with God.

Declare and confess them boldly and loudly to yourself! They are based on the promises of God to us and are sure to do what the Word says about us in our lives.

1.
I DECLARE that I am blessed IN JESUS NAME!

2.
I DECLARE that my job is blessed IN JESUS NAME!

3.
I DECLARE that my career is blessed IN JESUS NAME!

4.
I DECLARE that my business is blessed IN JESUS NAME!

5.
I DECLARE that my business transactions are blessed IN JESUS NAME!

6.

I DECLARE that my finances are blessed IN JESUS NAME!

7.
I DECLARE that my finances are growing IN JESUS NAME!

8.
I DECLARE that my finances are increasing IN JESUS NAME!

9.
I DECLARE that my finances and multiplying IN JESUS NAME!

10.
I DECLARE that I am fruitful IN JESUS NAME!

11.
I DECLARE that I am a success IN JESUS NAME!

12.
I DECLARE that I am prosperous IN JESUS NAME!

13.
I DECLARE that I am highly favoured IN JESUS NAME!

14.
I DECLARE that I am always preferred IN JESUS NAME!

15.
I DECLARE that I am full of power IN JESUS NAME!

16.

I DECLARE that I am healed IN JESUS NAME!

17.
I DECLARE that I am healthy and strong IN JESUS NAME!

18.
I DECLARE that I am divinely protected and secured by God and his ministering angels IN JESUS NAME!

19.
I DECLARE that no weapon formed or created to be used against me shall prosper IN JESUS NAME!

20.
I DECLARE that I am full of wisdom IN JESUS NAME!

21.
I DECLARE that I walk in the paths of righteousness IN JESUS NAME!

22
I DECLARE that I am the righteousness of God in Christ IN JESUS NAME!

23.
I DECLARE that I have the gift of righteousness IN JESUS NAME!

24.
I DECLARE that sin shall not have dominion over me IN JESUS NAME!

25.
I DECLARE that Gods mercy is abundant upon my life and it works in me, through

me, for me and in my favour IN JESUS NAME!

26.
I DECLARE that all that I lay my hands upon to do shall exceedingly and abundantly prosper IN JESUS NAME!

27.
I DECLARE that all that I decreed, declared and confessed are fulfilled IN JESUS NAME!

28.
I thank you Lord for answering my prayers **IN JESUS NAME!**

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